

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02457 091827Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01  
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02  
SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /117 W  
-----037619 101226Z /15

R 091525Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 138  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2457

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, JM  
SUBJECT: JAMAICA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER P.J.  
PATTERSON ATTENDS UNCTAD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA  
AND ACP-EEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN BURSELS

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON HELD A PRESS  
CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING JAMAICA TO ATTEND THE UNCTAD  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA MARCH 6-7.

2. ACCORDING TO THE GLEANER OF MARCH 6, MINISTER PATTERSON  
SAID THAT THE DISBURSED DEBT OF OIL-IMPORTING DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES ROSE FROM US\$90 BILLION AT THE END OF 1973  
TO MORE THAN US\$170 BILLION AT THE END OF 1976, WHILE THEIR  
DEBT SERVICE ROSE FROM US\$13 BILLION TO OVER US\$35 BILLION  
DURING THE SAME PERIOD. HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN  
WORSENER BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
HAD ENGAGED IN PRIVATE BORROWING TO COVER THEIR CURRENT  
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICITS.

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3. DECLARING THAT THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE DEBT PROBLEM  
IN ORDER TO HELP THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF THE THIRD  
WORLD HAD BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY, MR. PATTERSON SAID THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD  
TREAT THE DEBT QUESTION "BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON  
THE LONGER TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF THESE  
COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS ITS IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THEIR

CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL." HE SAID DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SINCE THE DECLARATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) HAD BROUGHT TO THE FORE THE BASIC TECHNICAL ECONOMIC ISSUES INVOLVED IN RECONCILING THE PROBLEM. MINISTER PATTERSON SAID THAT "WHAT IS NOW NECESSARY AND WHAT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WILL SEEK TO ACHIEVE IS THE POLITICAL WILL TO FIND A MECHANISM TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEM." HE MENTIONED THAT IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH. HE SAID THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD MAINTAINED THAT "THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM DEMANDS THE APPLICATION OF GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF MEASURES TO ASSIST THE THIRD WORLD EN BLOC." THIS APPROACH HAD BEEN RESISTED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH MAINTAIN THAT THE DEBT PROBLEM SHOULD BE TREATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THE MINISTER SAID THE PROSPECT PRESENTED BY THE LATTER APPROACH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE THIRD WORLD AS IT IMPLIED AN AD HOC TREATMENT OF A PROBLEM WHICH PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED THE ENTIRE DEVELOPING WORLD AND WOULD NOT PROVIDE A CONSISTENT POLICY APPROACH TO THE DEBT PROBLEM OF THOSE COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT IN MAKING THEIR APPEAL TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO EMPHASIZE THAT "WE ARE NOT SEEKING LARGESSE; NOR WILL THEY BE ASSISTING US IN THE SENSE OF GIVING LARGESSE. RATHER, WE MUST CONVINCE THEM THAT

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THE FUTURE BOUYANCY OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIES IS DEPENDENT ON THE RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND WE INTEND TO PRESS THIS." HE SAID THE MEASURE OF POLITICAL WILL EXHIBITED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AT THE UNCTAD CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE AN INDEX OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD'S COMMITMENTS TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE NIEO. THE POSITION TAKEN BY SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON THE DEBT PROBLEM WAS "ENCOURAGING", BUT CONSENSUS WITHIN THAT GROUP WAS NEEDED TO "ESTABLISH A MEANINGFUL MOVE."

4. AFTER ATTENDING THE UNCTAD MINISTERIAL MEETING, MINISTER PATTERSON GOES ON TO BRUSSELS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH AND PACIFIC (ACP) GROUP OF COUNTRIES AND LATER A MEETING OF THE ACP/EEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. MR. PATTERSON, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE ACP/EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WILL PRESIDE AT THIS MEETING, AND WILL HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS TOWARD THE NEGOTIATION OF THE LOME II CONVENTION, WHICH WILL SUCCEED THE LOME I CONVENTION DUE TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1978.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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